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Fifth Plenary Session of the German Peace Committee East-Berlin on 24 November 1951. The persons

invited received an invitation by letter which had to be produced in the Haus der Presse and was checked against a list. They were given participant and seat tickets which, together with their identity card, they had to show to the double sentry guarding the door of the conference room. These rigid security measures were taken for the first time with even high-ranking functionaries of parties and organizations who were not admitted if they failed to comply with these formalities.

2. The meeting was presided over by Professor Dr. Friedrich (fnu) and Heinz Willmann, secretary general of the German Peace Committee. Members of the committee included Erwin Eckert, chairman of the Peace Committee in Eastern Germany who is no longer in Braunschweig but lives alternately either in Dusseldorf or in Freiburg/Breisgau; Hein Fink, KPD member and member of the World Peace Council, who lives in Hamburg; Mrs. Edith Hoereth-Menge, of Munich; Arnold Zweig, SPD member, of Berlin; Anna Seghers, SPD member, of Berlin; Dr. Herz (fnu), pastor in Leipzig; Dr. Wiedemann (fnu), of Halle; and Thomson Baker, a negro from South Africa. Other members of the committee were common people from the Soviet Zone of Germany, usually activists who were not admitted to the committee table. Johannes R. Becher, noted writer, was absent because of an alleged illness. Persons recently admitted to the All-German Peace Committee included: Professor Dr. Mainau (fnu), of Loerrach in Baden; General (retired) Karl Mentschel, of Munster in Westphalia; Rear-Admiral (retired) Stummel (fnu); Walter Diehl, student of divinity in Mainz; Mrs. Edith Hoereth-Menge, of Munich; Arnold Zweig, writer in Berlin; Colonel (retired) Walter Lewess-Litzmann; Dr. Herz (fnu), pastor in Leipzig; Dr. Lothar Bolz, Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the NDP. Dr. H.C. Johannes R. Becher resigned from the committee.

3. Professor Friedrich opened the meeting and reported on the meeting of the World Peace Council which was held in Vienna from 1 to 6 November 1951. Walter Diehl and Mrs. Hoerth-Mengo reported on the work of the committee in Eastern Germany stating that their cause had strong appeal to the members of all parties, particularly the CDU and SPD. Diehl said that their activity was successful among students in Eastern Germany and was furthered by Major General (retired) Montschel Admiral (retired) Stummel and Pastor Johannes Oberhof whose influence was of particular importance.

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during the debate Mrs. Hesse had called for more strikes in Western Germany and explained that the strike in Hamburg alone proved beneficial for the entire program. She was seconded by Mrs. Sasse (fnu), principal of a school. The debate then concentrated on Collier's Magazine which was said to have a four million circulation in the U.S.A. and to have a pronounced aggressive tendency against the U.S.S.R. It was said that this magazine would have to be evaluated in detail, specifically regarding its articles on atomic war against the U.S.S.R. The articles would have to be disseminated as widely as possible to spread anti-American propaganda.

5. Professor Friedrich mentioned in the debate that he had recently been to Goettingen where he received a favorable reception. He stated that the attitude of the population toward the Soviet Zone of Germany improved considerably, particularly among his colleagues in Western Germany. Friedrich told [redacted]

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[redacted] that it was planned to establish an association of academies of sciences in the West and that he was promised that the Soviet Zone Academy of Science would be admitted to this body. Professor Dr. Bauer (fnu), member of the Academy of Sciences and the German Peace Committee gave a similar report concerning a meeting of the Goerres Society in Munich which he attended recently. He said that the attitude toward the East was considerably more favorable than it had been at a meeting held six months earlier in Cologne. He stated that at that time he was blamed by his colleagues in Bonn for being a member of the Soviet-German Academy of Science while he was now received with cordiality. He added that there was a growing aversion both for the Americans and Adenauer's policy and that Grotewohl's bids had been more successful in the West than he had believed.

6. Another subject of discussion was the meeting of local officials including officials of town, city and district administrations (Landraete, Bürgermeister and Stadtraete) which was attended by approximately 400 persons including 200 from Western Germany. Dr. Doering (?) (fnu) of the Landrat in Hof was especially commended, and it was said that the attitude of almost all Bavarians was rather positive.

7. Pastor Dr. Herz of Leipzig gave a report on observations he had made during the meeting of the World Peace Council in Vienna. He said that Austria and Vienna were definitely pro-American and, like Western Germany, were governed by Catholics. He stated in the presence of a selected group that Kock (fnu), an Evangelical pastor and the leader of the Peace Movement in Austria, was particularly clever and had invited both Herz and Professor Hromatka (fnu) of Czechoslovakia to the Synod of Evangelical Pastors in Austria which was held simultaneously with the World Peace Council. He said that the two men made peace appeals at the Synod which, however, were only partially successful. In conversation Herz said [redacted] that, according to Hromatka, professor of Evangelical Theology at Prague University, this school of theology was attended by not more than 30 students and that Hromatka was very pessimistic about the fate of the church in Czechoslovakia.

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8. Air Force Colonel (retired) Lewose-Litzmann made a speech on the atomic bomb and said that its effectiveness was greatly reduced because of the tremendous development of the Soviet air defense. He stated that the Soviet air defenses and fighters were much stronger than those of the Americans. He said that the enormous losses which the U.S. Air Force suffered in Korea supported his statement. He indicated that he had his information from [redacted] Litzmann mentioned in a private conversation that 800 former officers and 4 generals were active members of the Peace Movement in Western Germany.

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25X1 5. [REDACTED] Mrs. Hoereth-Menge stated that approximately 20,000 peace committees existed in Western Germany which numbered about 475,000 members. She stated that about 20,000 women registered by the German Peace Committee were organized in the Democratic League of Women. She said that the number of local peace committees in the Saarland was 11,000.

10. Professor Henselmann (fnu) of the Bauakademie (Academy of Architecture) 25X1 [REDACTED] that Rear-Admiral Stummel is to maintain contact with Mrs. Helene Wessel, ex-Minister Gustav Meinemann and their organization. Willmann, secretary general, who joined in the conversation said that Stummel was successful in his liaison capacity and had already delivered speeches to the organization of Helene Wessel and Meinemann.

11. Hromatka, the Czechoslovakian professor, and Dembowski (fnu), a Polish professor, were restrained in their mutual conversation. Dembowski stated that this was due to the unrelenting attitude of Czechoslovakia with regard to ecclesiastical problems. The two professors were, however, rather candid in conversation [REDACTED] Hromatka was very 25X1 critical of Western Germany and the German rearmament while Dembowski's attitude gave no indication of alarm on this subject. He only emphasized that his country was not in a position to stand a new war. It was noted that Dembowski although he assumed the usual eastern attitude, particularly against the U.S.A., was rather partial toward Great Britain and France. 25X1 [REDACTED] his attitude toward Great Britain was almost definitely pro-British. Professor Hromatka, who, in conversation, discussed chiefly military problems, stated that Czechoslovakia received a number of long-range bombers from the U.S.S.R. having a radius of action of 3,200 kilometers and a maximum speed of 1,100 km/h. He said that Czechoslovakia also received jet fighters which, however, are flown by Soviet pilots.

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